



## **MICHIGAN RETIRED ENGINEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RETAP)**

### **Questions and Answers for Assessor Candidates**

**Who are the RETAP assessors?** RETAP assessors are retired engineers, scientists, or other professionals who have worked in Michigan industry, with most having 30 to 40 years of experience. The assessors conduct on-site assessments at small businesses and institutions in Michigan to identify pollution prevention and energy efficiency opportunities. Any professional with a serious interest in pollution prevention and a background in industrial and commercial processes may apply. More than 50 RETAP assessors have been located throughout the state.

**What are the benefits of being a RETAP assessor?** It is an opportunity to share your extensive knowledge and expertise with small businesses and institutions. You are improving the environment for your children, grandchildren, and the rest of the citizens of Michigan. The assessors enjoy camaraderie with other retired professionals. It is a tremendous learning experience. Bob Hauser, who has been an assessor since the program's inception, said that he has learned more in the last 14 years as a RETAP assessor than he did in the previous years before he retired. He has learned about a broad range of processes in many different types of industries.

**Who employs the RETAP assessors?** The RETAP assessors currently work as subcontractors for the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Foundation (the Foundation). A non-profit corporation founded in 1996.

**Who administers RETAP?** The Environmental Science and Services Division (ESSD) of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality administers the program. RETAP technical services are provided through a contract with the Foundation.

**What is the rate of compensation?** The contractor determines the rates for compensation and travel expenses. Currently, the hourly pay rate is \$18.00. Overnight travel is infrequent because the assessors are usually called for assessments in their area. Additional compensation provides for mileage, meals, miscellaneous expenses, and overnight travel, if required.

**Does the work involve regular hours?** The work is definitely part-time and sporadic. The amount of assignments you receive will depend on the number of requests from facilities in your area. In 2008, our goal is to complete 125 assessments.

**What training is available?** New assessors receive a one half-day orientation training. For the first few assessments, new assessors are always teamed with experienced assessors. (Some new assessors begin on-site assessment work before they receive the orientation training.) All assessors are encouraged to attend annual training events to learn about new pollution prevention tools and share experiences and successes with one another. Typically there is at least one 3 ½ day training session every year, which include designated "training" assessments.

**What if I am unavailable when I am called for an assessment?** That is not a problem. Work assignments always are made on the basis of your being "available and interested." Also, we realize that you may take extended

vacations. If you are unavailable, we will call you another time. However, you are asked to let the Foundation know when you plan to be gone for an extended period of time.

***May I perform consulting work outside of RETAP?*** Yes, but to maintain program integrity, you cannot offer any personal services or business to facilities assessed by the program. There is no objection to consulting work if it is outside of the program. You will be required to sign an agreement with the Foundation that includes a statement about conflict of interest.

***How can I find out more?*** There are many ways to get more information.

- Visit the RETAP web site at [www.michigan.gov/degretap](http://www.michigan.gov/degretap)
- Call Mr. Dick Savage, RETAF Executive Director at 1-888-749-7886.
- Call Mr. David Herb, RETAP Manager, Environmental Science and Services Division of DEQ at 800-662-9278.

Refer to the RETAP brochure and fact sheet.

If you are interested, please send an application and your resume to the Foundation:

Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Foundation  
32401 West Eight Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48152